MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) The Government are not aware of such a policy of the Department as is mentioned by the member. It is reported by the Director of Public Instruction that there have been instances in the past of men having been recruited directly to the English Branch of the Department, when there were duly qualified men in the Vernacular Branch. In recent years, however, there have been few recruits to the English Branch, especially to the Undergraduate Section of it owing to the fall in strength in English Schools and several teachers holding substantive appointments have had to be treated as supernumerary or vacancy reserve teachers. Whenever, however, a vacancy did arise in the English Branch, the Director of Public Instruction has invariably considered the claims of duly qualified persons in the Vernacular Branch.

Registry of lands to depressed classes in 1103 and 1104.

85. MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the total area of land available for registry to depressed classes in the years 1103 and 1104; and

(*b*) the total area registered in the years 1103 and 1104 in the names of members of depressed classes?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The total area of lands ear-marked for assignment to members of the depressed classes was 16,015·95 acres in 1103 and 15,291·25 acres in 1104. Some of the lands found unfit for assignment to members of the depressed classes were excluded from the ear-marked area in 1104. This is the reason for the decrease in the ear-marked area in the latter year. Though lands are ear-marked, assignment of land to the depressed classes is not confined to the ear-marked area alone but other lands are also registered to them as applications come in if there be no objection to the assignment.

(*b*) In 1103, 548·17 acres (363·73 acres from the ear-marked lands and 184·44 acres from other lands) were assigned to them. In 1104, 915·12 acres (545·99 acres from the ear-marked lands and 369·13 acres from other lands) were assigned.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): May I know from the member what was the cause of the delay in assigning the whole number of acres earmarked for registry to depressed classes?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There was no delay.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): In the answer to part (a) I find the total area of lands earmarked for assignment to members of the depressed classes was 16,015·95 acres in 1103. May I know from the member why this area was not registered?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That depends upon the number of applications received.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): May I know from the member how many applications were received in the Revenue Department?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I claim notice.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : May I know from the member how many applications were disposed of in 1103 and 1104 ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : That requires an enquiry with the Land Revenue Commissioner. I have not got that information.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*) : May I know from the member whether that requires additional hands ?

PRESIDENT : That is a new question.

Raising the grade of the Erumakkuzhi Primary School.

86. **MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware :

(i) that the building in which the present Vernacular Primary School at Erumakkuzhi is housed has been constructed and handed over by the public for the purpose of opening a Vernacular Middle School ;

(ii) that there are seven other Primary Schools in the neighbourhood which would act as feeder schools for the same ; and

(iii) that the above building could conveniently accommodate Middle School Classes also ; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether they have considered the question of raising it to a Middle School on that ground ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) (i) The document by which the building was transferred to Government states that a Higher Grade Elementary School building was constructed by the signatories to the document and handed over by them to Government unconditionally. There was no promise of any kind to raise the standard of the school.

(ii) No. Two Primary Schools alone can conveniently supply pupils for Class V, the other schools around being incomplete Prmiary Schools.

(iii) The school has more accommodation than is required for its present needs, but not enough for a complete Middle School.

(*b*) The Government have decided against the raising of the Erumakkuzhi Primary School to a Middle School.

Rules under the Village Panchayat Regulation.

87. **MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for not publishing the rules under the Village Panchayat Regulation even though draft rules were published about 18 months back ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : Draft rules framed by the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil were published in the issue of the *Gazette* dated the 17th July 1928. The two months' time fixed

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